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BULLETIN OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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NUMBER I.

THE object of the BULLETIN is to form a means of communication between the officers and staff of the Art Institute and its members and friends. Among its friends we hope we may number the whole community, whom we aim to serve. There is little difficulty in establishing relations with the artists, connoisseurs and critics, but to reach and interest the great body of the people requires some effort. There are even some cultivated people resident in Chicago who are better acquainted with foreign art museums than with the Art Institute, and who have little appreciation of its relative importance and value. The BULLETIN will also serve as a medium of communication with sister institutions.

As one of the leading art museums of the United States we desire to make every citizen acquainted with the objects and the claims of the Art Institute, and to excite his pride and interest in it. In the matter of popularity and usefulness the Art Institute yields to no other similar institution. Last year the attendance of visitors to the galleries (exclusive of students) was 522,094. The attendance upon the school, the library and the lectures far exceeds that of any other American art institution. The characteristic of the institution is activity. Nowhere else are the successive exhibitions, the lectures, receptions and special privileges of members so numerous.

It will be the aim of the BULLETIN promptly to make known the acquisitions, changes and rearrangements in the museum, school and library, and to announce the lectures, exhibitions, receptions and other interesting events which are in prospect. As space permits we shall occasionally publish descriptions and reproductions of interesting objects in the collections.

THE CHARLES LAWRENCE HUTCHINSON GALLERY OF OLD MASTERS

Room 32, the gallery of Old Masters, has recently been reconstructed and decorated in a manner suitable to the important pictures which it contains. By vote of the Trustees it has been put under Mr. Hutchinson's name.

Mr. Charles L. Hutchinson was made one of the Trustees of the Art Institute when it was organized in 1879. In 1881 he was chosen Vice-President, and in 1882 he was elected President. At every annual meeting since that time he has been unanimously elected to the Presidency by the Trustees, so that he has held the office continuously for twenty-five years. To no person is the Art Institute so indebted as to Mr. Hutchinson, although many strong friends have united in building it up.

Deeming it suitable that there should be a permanent memorial of Mr. Hutchinson's able and devoted service of a quarter of a century, the Trustees at the regular Annual

Meeting, June 6, 1907, passed the following Resolutions :

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles L. Hutchinson has now completed his twenty-fifth year of service as President of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his twenty-eighth year as Trustee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hutchinson has during these years performed inestimable service for the institution, and by his enthusiasm, energy and sagacity has made its success possible; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Trustees on this occasion again give expression to the high esteem which they have unanimously manifested every year by electing him their President, and deeming it proper that some permanent and public recognition of his services should be made;

Resolved, That the gallery commonly known as the Old Masters' Room (Gallery 32) shall hereafter be called "The Charles Lawrence Hutchinson Gallery of Old Masters," and shall be suitably dedicated when finished and marked by a permanent tablet; and the Trustees hereby individually and personally tender to the Art Institute a sum of money sufficient to fit up and decorate this room in the best manner, in general harmony with the galleries of the north wing.

It is well known that this collection of Old Masters, which constitutes one of the chief titles of the Art Institute to recognition among the art museums of the world, was brought to Chicago through the foresight and enterprise of Mr. Hutchinson, earnestly seconded by Mr. Ryerson. Mr. Hutchinson presented one of the finest pictures, the Frans Hals, himself, and has found donors for most of the others. It is therefore altogether appropriate that his name should be permanently connected with the collection. The work of reconstructing and beautifying the gallery is approaching completion, and it will be thrown open for the first time at the Annual Reception upon the afternoon of Tuesday, October 22, 1907.

THE MUNGER GALLERY

In the autumn of 1902 Room 40, which contains the fine pictures of the A. A. Munger Collection, was fitted with mosaic floor and marble wainscoting, but the decoration of the walls and the introduction of metallic skylights was postponed. The Munger Estate has now generously furnished the means to complete the room, and the work has just been completed. The proportion of the gallery has been improved by reducing the height of the ceiling about four feet. The deep red of the wall has been retained, in a richer material.

THE COMING EXHIBITIONS

The most important exhibitions before the next issue of the Bulletin will be the Annual Exhibition of American artists and the Art Crafts exhibition. The former is one of the important exhibitions of the season in the United States. It will include works of the most distinguished artists, Whistler, Abbey, Sargent, Dewing, Homer, Inness, Ranger, Redfield, Tarbell, Cooper, and many others. About seventy paintings are brought especially for the exhibition directly from Paris, representing the best work of the American group in France, among them, Tanner, Ullman, Hubbell, McEwen, Harrison, Barthold, MacCameron, Thomas and Walden. The Chicago artists also will be fully represented.

The N. W. Harris Prize of five hundred dollars will be awarded for the best picture.

The exhibition of Art Crafts, just before Christmas, always excites lively interest, and is especially valuable as attaching to the Art Institute a body of earnest designers and craftsmen and their patrons, who are more interested in applied arts than in pictures. Works of craftsmanship are brought from all over the country.